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Upland Game Birds.¹—This volume, by Edwyn Sandys and T. S. Van Dyke, is the second in the American Sportsman's Library Series, edited by Caspar Whitney, and, like the first, *The Deer Family*, by Roosevelt and others, shows the editor's good judgment in the selection of his authors for this noteworthy series of books. The scope of the work includes not only the turkey, grouse, partridges, and mourning dove, as would be expected, but also the cranes, woodcock, the upland and golden plovers, and introduced "foreign game," but not the snipe. Although written ostensibly for sportsmen by sportsmen, it has a much broader interest. Its attractive style, varied incident, and personal reminiscences must render it attractive to the general reader, and especially to those interested in the wild things of nature. The successful sportsman is necessarily a keen observer, and long experience in his craft renders him familiar with the ranges and life histories of his favorite objects of pursuit; but few have the literary gift to impart attractively to others the fund of information gained through such varied and extensive opportunities of observation. The authors of the present volume are well equipped for their task, as regards both experience and literary ability.

Mr. Van Dyke's portion of the work (pp. 377-417) relates exclusively to "The Quail and Grouse of the Pacific Coast," with which he shows himself especially familiar. The rest of the field (pp. 1-376) is covered by Mr. Sandys, whose several chapters contain much that is detailed and explicit regarding the habits and peculiarities of the game birds he treats, and in many ways admirably supplement the much that has been written by ornithologists. The spirit of the naturalist pervades the pages of *Upland Game Birds*, although they are amply enlivened by personal reminiscences that should prove especially attractive to the sportsmen; and the authors also neglect no opportunity to castigate the "game hog," and to urge more effective protection for game birds. Five of the nine very effective and pleasing illustrations are by Mr. L. A. Fuertes.

J. A. A.

Nestlings of Forest and Marsh,² by Irene Grosvenor Wheelock, contains accounts of the home life of about twenty birds, most of

¹ Sandys, Edwyn, and Van Dyke, T. S. *Upland Game Birds*. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1902. 8vo, ix + 429 pp., frontispiece and 8 full-page plates. American Sportsman's Library Series, edited by Caspar Whitney.

² Wheelock, Irene Grosvenor. *Nestlings of Forest and Marsh*. Chicago, A. C. McClurg & Co., 1902. 8vo, xvi + 257 pp., 22 pls., text-figs.

them common and familiar, *e.g.*, the oriole, robin, crow, brown thrasher, a few less well known, such as the long-billed marsh wren and the yellow-headed blackbird. By commendable energy and patience the author has obtained notes describing the selection of the nesting site, the search for materials for building, the care of the young, and their efforts, successful or tragic, to make a start in life. In her "Foreword" the author claims that her book is "as accurate as careful observation in the field can make it"; nor does anything in the book seem inconsistent with this claim. It is not, however, safe to accept all her conclusions from the facts recorded. She says further: "So far as reading human characteristics into animal life is concerned, can any one tell where the brute ends and the human begins? Many of the emotions of man's heart find their counterpart in the life of birds. That we do not perceive this proves only how dull is our sight." The most hazardous attempt to read bird minds is the account, on pp. 119 and 120, of a supposed successful attempt of chickadees to poison a young one which had been made a captive. The story is told in the best faith, but it is an excellent example of what Prof. Lloyd Morgan has felicitously termed "the inability to distinguish the observed fact from the observer's inference." It is curious that the author seems wholly ignorant of Professor Herrick's book, which has laid the foundations of that part of the study of birds which she has chosen for her field. An acquaintance with Professor Herrick's work would have saved her from assuming that a parent bird "seemed to know instinctively which one [of the nestlings] had been fed." The study of the marsh birds is the most interesting part of the book, but several of the other chapters contain bits of valuable information, *e.g.*, the account of the destruction by red-headed woodpeckers of the nests and young of cliff swallows. In an attempt to write brightly and entertainingly, the author too frequently sacrifices dignity, nor can her humor be said to be of a high order. The illustrations are, with a few exceptions, poor, though it should be said that this fact is partly due to the evident reluctance of both the author and the photographer to interfere with the home life of the birds under observation.

A New Genus of Nemerteans.¹ — An important paper by Miss Thompson describes the anatomy, histology, and relationships of a new heteronemertean, of especial interest because it apparently

¹ Thompson, Caroline B. *Zygeupolia litoralis*, a New Heteronemertean, *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia* (December, 1901), pp. 657-739, Pls. XI-XLIV, 1902.